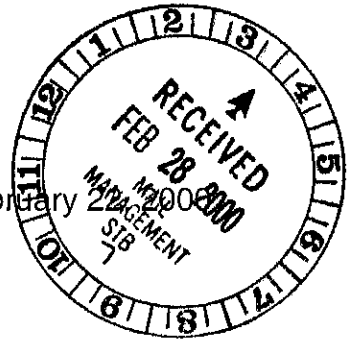


SYLVITE

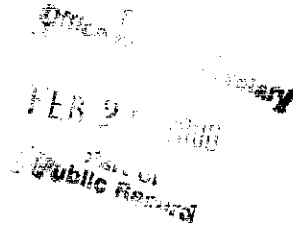
374 Main Street West, Suite 200
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1K2

197094
Tel: (905) 572-7911
Fax: (905) 572-7271



Tuesday, February 22, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001



Dear Sir:

Sylvite is a large distributor of Agricultural Commodities, moving approximately 900,000 tons of goods in Eastern North America. We have offices in Canada and the US and support the CN-BNSF merger. We find that to compete internationally we must have carriers that span the continent. It will allow us to compete! We find that the current level of service and the constant bickering between railroads very unproductive. This new combination should streamline many movements linking Atlantic, Pacific and the Gulf.

In the report CN-BNSF are asking for a fair hearing, this certainly seems to be in the best interest of all concerned. We encourage a fair and open evaluation based upon common sense.

Thank you,

Hugh Loomans
President, Sylvite Inc.